

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 25-29, 32, 36, 42, 45, 47, and 48 are pending. The claims have been objected to because of various informalities. Claims 1, 2, 25-28, 32, and 42 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102. Claim 45 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103. Claims 4, 29, 36, 47, and 48 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. Claims 1, 32, and 45 have been amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 32, and 45 is found in the drawings in the specification at page 12, lines 19-20, and at page 13, lines 12-21. Claims 1, 2, 4, 25-29, 32, 36, 42, 45, 47, and 48 remain for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner has objected to claims 1, 2, 4, 25-29, 32, 36, 42, 45, 47, and 48 because of alleged various informalities and has required appropriate correction. In particular, claims 1, 32, and 45 have been objected to because of the phrases “a razor cartridge” and “said razor blades defined by” in each respective claim, which the Examiner alleges should be changed.

Applicants have reviewed the alleged informalities as pointed out by the Examiner and have made the requested changes. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objections to the claims.

Claims 1, 2, 25-28, 32, and 42 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,131,498 to Chandler (hereinafter “Chandler”). Claims 1 and 32 have been amended as indicated above.

Chandler is directed to a safety razor in which shaving cream can be placed in a handle of the safety razor and automatically fed during shaving. The body of the handle is a tube closed at its lower end except for a small opening. A plunger is translatable along the length of the tube against the pressure of a helically coiled expanding spring. The inner volume of the tube and the plunger define a reservoir in which the shaving cream is contained. The small opening at the lower end of the tube is large enough to pass a length of plumbing chain through and has offset portions small enough to catch and hold the beads of the plumbing chain, thereby allowing the plunger to be held in place in the tube against the pressure of the spring. The upper end of the tube is screwed

into a lower end of a shank, and a guard plate is formed at the upper end of the shank, the guard plate having a plurality of outwardly extending teeth "as is customary with this type of razor." Passages extend upward from the reservoir to longitudinal horizontal passages, and much smaller passages extend laterally from the longitudinal horizontal passages to each tooth. A selectively operable valve mechanism allows the shaving cream to be dispensed from the reservoir. A cap plate holds the blade in place on the guard plate.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a lubricating shaving assembly in which an upper end of a body has a face having a razor cartridge receiving area in which one or more razor cartridges may be secured and a plurality of openings in the face. Chandler fails to disclose, teach, or suggest such a configuration, as recited in claim 1. In particular, in the present invention, the openings through which the shaving preparation flows are in the face adjacent to the razor cartridge receiving area, whereas in the device of Chandler the openings through which shaving cream is dispensed extend laterally and open below the razor blade. Thus, the openings in the teeth in the Chandler device are not surrounding or at least not adjacent to the razor cartridge receiving area, as they are in the present invention as recited in claim 1. Structure in which the openings are positioned in the face adjacent to and at least partially surrounding the razor cartridge receiving area is patentably distinct from structure in which openings are below (and therefore not adjacent to) a razor blade.

Claim 32 has been amended to recite a shaving assembly in which an upper end of a handle has a face having a razor cartridge receiving area to which one or more razor blades may be attached and a plurality of openings in the face. Chandler fails to disclose, teach, or suggest such a configuration, as recited in claim 32. As stated above, in the present invention, the openings through which the shaving preparation flows are in the face adjacent to the razor cartridge receiving area, whereas in the device of Chandler the openings through which shaving cream is dispensed extend laterally and open below the razor blade. Thus, the openings in the teeth in the Chandler device are not surrounding or at least not adjacent to the razor cartridge receiving area, as they are as recited in claim 32. Structure in which the openings are positioned in the face adjacent to and at least

partially surrounding the razor cartridge receiving area is patentably distinct from structure in which openings are below (and therefore not adjacent to) a razor blade.

Because Chandler fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a lubricating shaving assembly in which an upper end of a body has a face having a razor cartridge receiving area in which one or more razor cartridges may be secured, as recited in claim 1, claim 1 is not anticipated by the Chandler reference. For at least this reason, claim 1 is allowable, and Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 1. Furthermore, because Chandler fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a shaving assembly in which an upper end of a handle has a face having a razor cartridge receiving area to which one or more razor blades may be attached, as recited in claim 32, claim 32 is not anticipated by the Chandler reference. For at least this reason, claim 32 is allowable, and Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 32.

Because claims 2 and 25-28 depend from claim 1, claims 2 and 25-28 add recitations that further define the subject matter of independent claim 1. Because claim 1 is believed to be allowable for at least the reasons presented above, claims 2 and 25-28 are therefore also believed to be allowable. Consequently, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 2 and 25-28 be withdrawn. Furthermore, because claim 42 depends from claim 32, claim 42 adds recitations that further define the subject matter of independent claim 32. Because claim 32 is believed to be allowable for at least the reasons presented above, claim 42 is therefore also believed to be allowable. Consequently, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claim 42 be withdrawn.

Claim 45 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Chandler or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Chandler. The Examiner alleges that Chandler discloses a shaving assembly with every structural limitation of the claimed invention. The Examiner also takes Official Notice that various configurations of handles for razors are allegedly well known. The Examiner then alleges that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide a plurality of side walls for the benefits disclosed.

The teachings of Chandler are presented above.

Claim 45 has been amended to recite a lubricating shaving assembly in which an upper end of a handle has a face having a razor cartridge receiving area to which one or more razor blades may be attached and a plurality of apertures in the face. Chandler fails to disclose, teach, or suggest such a configuration. In the present invention as recited in claim 45, the apertures through which the shaving preparation flows are in the face adjacent to the razor cartridge receiving area, whereas in the device of Chandler the apertures through which shaving cream is dispensed extend laterally and open below the razor blade. Accordingly, the openings in the teeth in the Chandler device are not surrounding or at least not adjacent to the razor cartridge receiving area, as they are as recited in claim 45. Structure in which the apertures are positioned in the face adjacent to and at least partially surrounding the razor cartridge receiving area is patentably distinct from structure in which apertures are below (and therefore not adjacent to) a razor blade.

Because Chandler fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a lubricating shaving assembly in which an upper end of a handle has a face having a razor cartridge receiving area to which one or more razor blades may be attached and a plurality of apertures in the face, as recited in claim 45, claim 45 is not anticipated by the Chandler reference. For at least this reason, claim 45 is allowable, and Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 45.

Furthermore, because Chandler fails to disclose, teach, or suggest what Applicants claim in their amended claim 45, viz., a lubricating shaving assembly in which an upper end of a handle has a face having a razor cartridge receiving area to which one or more razor blades may be attached and a plurality of apertures in the face, Chandler fails to teach all of the claim recitations of Applicants' invention. Consequently, because not all of the claim recitations are taught by the cited reference, Applicants' amended claim 45 is necessarily non-obvious, and Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 45.

Because claims 4 and 29 depend from claim 1, and because claim 1 is non-obvious, claims 4 and 29 are also necessarily non-obvious. Applicants, therefore, submit that claims 4 and 29 are allowable and respectfully request that the rejections of claims 4 and 29 be withdrawn. Furthermore, claim 36 depends from claim 32, and because claim 32 is non-obvious, claim 32 is also necessarily non-obvious. Applicants, therefore,

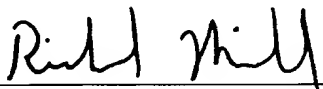
submit that claim 36 is allowable and respectfully request that the rejection of claim 36 be withdrawn. Additionally, claims 47 and 48 depend from claim 45, and because claim 45 is asserted to be non-obvious for the reasons presented above, claim 45 is also necessarily non-obvious. Applicants, therefore, submit that claims 47 and 48 are allowable and respectfully request that the rejections of claims 47 and 48 be withdrawn.

Applicants believe that the foregoing amendments and remarks are fully responsive to the Office Action and that the claims herein are allowable. An early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

A check in the amount of \$1020.00 is enclosed for the three-month extension fee. If any additional charges are incurred with respect to this Amendment, they may be charged to Deposit Account No. 503342 maintained by Applicants' attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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